III.—MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House the following message, dated Fort St. George, the 3rd November 1947, received by me from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

' In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Shops and Establishments Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 15 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly on the 3rd November 1947 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.'

" I have to announce to the House the following messages, dated Fort St. George, the 4th November 1947, received by me from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

' (1) In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 29 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly on the 4th November 1947 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.

(2) In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Abkari (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 30 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly on the 4th November 1947 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.

(3) In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 31 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly on the 4th November 1947 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.' "

IV.—AMENDMENTS TO RULE 111 OF THE MADRAS COUNCIL RULES.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I move, Sir, for leave to amend rule 111 of the Madras Council Rules as under :—

' (a) *For the last two lines of sub-rule* (1), *after the word* " *Bill* ", *the following shall be substituted* :—

" *and such a motion shall state the total number of members of both Houses to be appointed to the Committee.*"

(b) *At the end of sub-rule* (2), *the following shall be added* :—

" *to the appointment of a Joint Committee and its proposed total strength and requesting it to nominate the members required under sub-rule* (4)."

(c) *For the proviso to sub-rule* (3), *the following shall be substituted* :—

" ***Provided that the member in charge of the Bill, and the Member of Government in charge of the department to***

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which the Bill relates, shall be nominated as members of the Joint Committee by the House or Houses of which they are members."

(d) *For sub-rule* (4), *the following shall be substituted :—*

" (4) *The total number of members of a Joint Committee shall not exceed* 30 *and on every Joint Committee, the number of members to be nominated by the Assembly and the Council shall be in the proportion of* 2 : 1." '

" I need not dilate upon the necessity for the amendment The existing sub-rule (4) of the rule 111 fixes the proportion of the number of members of each Chamber on the joint select committees of both the Houses as 1 : 1. During the discussion on the motion for the appointment of a joint select committee to consider the Suppression of Immoral Traffic (Amendment) Bill, in the Assembly, the question was raised whether it was necessary to refer the matter to a joint select committee at all and then the general question of referring to joint select committees was raised. Therefore the Hon. the Speaker suggested to the Leader of the House of the Assembly, Dr. Subbarayan that the rule should be amended as under the existing rules of giving half and half it was found difficult to give proper representation to the other House in the joint select committee. So the matter was raised up here also and complaints were made that joint select committees were not appointed for the consideration of important Bills. Many difficulties are felt. The existing rules provide a maximum of 15 members in the joint select committee and when this is to be divided between the two Houses in the proportion of half and half it can only be done if the number is 14. It was found very difficult to select seven members in a House consisting of 215 members though it may not be difficult in a House like ours where the strength is about 55. So it was decided by the Government with the permission of the Hon. the President to amend the rule and bring in a motion to amend the rule. The number of members in the joint select committee has been increased from 15 to 30 and the proportion of the two Chambers, namely, Assembly and the Council is to be 2 to 1, instead of having 1 to 1. I hope, Sir, that this will have the approval of the Members and there would not be any reason for complaining that hon. Members of this House are not being taken in the select committees when important matters are discussed."

The motion was put and carried and leave was granted.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Under rule 135 of the Madras Council Rules, the draft amendments have now to be referred to a Select Committee. Six members of the Select Committee have to be elected by the Council by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations framed in this behalf, the President, the Deputy President and the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture, being ex officio members of the Committee. One of

the members of the panel of Chairmen is to be nominated by me as a member of the Committee. I fix 3 p.m. to-day as the hour within which nominations may be handed over to the Secretary.

"If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled in, namely, six, then there will be an election between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Friday, the 7th November 1947."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

V.—BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS BETTING TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 29 OF 1947)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'*that the Madras Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 29 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly,*[a] *be taken into consideration at once.*'

"Recently, Sir, we had a discussion whether racing and betting in the Presidency should be allowed, on the motion moved by the hon. Member Mr. Abdul Latif Farookhi. The Hon. the Home Minister is taking steps to give notice of the Bill that was published some months ago and the House will have an opportunity of discussing about the main problem itself. This amending Bill seeks to enhance the rate now existing, namely 6¼ per cent to 12½ per cent. So the issue is very simple, namely whether it should remain at 6¼ per cent or it should be 12½ per cent. That is the main issue before us now. In 1946 the people in the Race Course enhanced the admission of Re. 1 to Rs. 2–8–0 and the betting unit of Rs. 2–8–0 into Rs. 5 and the result was really very telling. When the admission fee was Re. 1 and the unit of betting was Rs. 2–8–0 in the second enclosure 11,982 people attended on an average the race course at Guindy and last November when the admission fee was raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 2–8–0 and the betting unit from Rs. 2–8–0 to Rs. 5 the attendance came down to 6,594 people on the average. The second enclosure people cannot have any access to the book-makers. It is only the first enclosure people who can go to the book-maker and have the pleasure of betting on any horse. But the second enclosure people can only go to the totalizator where the betting rate is only Rs. 5.

"I may also give some figures for the benefit of the House, Sir, as to how the Government was getting a small income out of this betting tax. In 1943 it was enhanced from 4 per cent to 6½ per cent. From 1935 to 1943 the rate remained at 4 per cent and in 1943 it was enhanced to 6¼ per cent and now we are proposing to increase it further to 12½ per cent. The income derived from 1939–40 is as follows: 1939–40, Rs. 1·66 lakhs; 1940–41, Rs. 1·40 lakhs; 1941–42, Rs. 1·37 lakhs; 1942–43, Rs. 2·01 lakhs; 1943–44, Rs. 6·71 lakhs; 1944–45, Rs. 10·61 lakhs; 1945–46, Rs. 19·11 lakhs and in 1946–47 it was over Rs. 23 lakhs.

[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 650–651 infra.